

QUEEN^{OF}THE VALLEY

November 17, 1995

David Werdegarr, M.D., M.Ph., Director
Health Policy and Planning Division
Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development
1600 9th Street
Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Doctor Werdegarr:

This letter is in answer to your letter of June 1, 1995 identifying Queen of the Valley Hospital as a hospital that has data with limitations and excluding our facility's acute myocardial infarctions from the California Hospital Outcomes Project.

As a response to your findings, Queen of the Valley Hospital engaged the services of a coding consultant, Patrick Small, R.R.A., to review the charts which were included in the study. Mr. Small has been a valuable asset to Queen of the Valley Hospital in the past, reviewing our coding practices and providing in-service for coders and other Medical Records personnel two or three times a year. The following summarizes Mr. Small's findings after reviewing the charts included in your study:

In regard to the myocardial infarction patients, Queen of the Valley Hospital did not have a cardiac catheterization laboratory during the time frame in consideration. Included in this study were 111 patients who were transferred to another facility without delay after the diagnosis of myocardial infarction was made to undergo diagnostic heart catheterization, therefore, a secondary diagnosis was not determined at this facility and could not be documented by attending physician at the time of transfer. Of the 36 deaths, 24 died within 24 hours of admission.

I trust that you will give consideration to the above critique. If you should have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Maureen O'Connor
Executive Vice President

MC:klc

attachment